

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for context-aware computer management comprising the steps of:
2 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
3 assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the
4 clearance levels;
5 identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level; and
6 providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than
7 the lowest clearance level.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge
3 visibility status.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
2 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
3 visibility status.

1 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
2 recording the smart badge visibility status of each smart badge within an activity
3 log.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing step includes the step of:
2 providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to
3 the smart badges.

1 6. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:
 2 preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to
 3 invisible for a predetermined timeout.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 2 writing data items to the smart badges.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:
 2 pre-reading the data item from the smart badge during idle periods.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of
 2 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge
 3 has been continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 2 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and
 3 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration
 4 period has been exceeded.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the assigning each smart badge step includes the
 2 step of:
 3 configuring a predetermined smart badge visibility range.

12. A method for context-aware computer management comprising the steps of:

assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;

assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the clearance levels;

identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level;

providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than the lowest clearance level;

updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility status; and

recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge visibility status.

13. A computer-usable medium embodying computer program code for context-aware computer management, comprising the steps of:

assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;

assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of the clearance levels;

identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level; and

providing access to database information having clearance levels no higher than the lowest clearance level.

14. The computer-usable medium of claim 13 further comprising the step of:

updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility status.

1 15. The computer-usable medium of claim 14 further comprising the step of:
2 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
3 visibility status.

1 16. The computer-usable medium of claim 13 wherein the providing step includes the
2 step of:
3 providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to
4 the smart badges.

1 17. The computer-usable medium of claim 14 further comprising the step of:
2 preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to
3 invisible for a predetermined timeout.

1 18. The computer-usable medium of claim 13 further comprising the step of
2 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge
3 has been continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

1 19. The computer-usable medium of claim 13 further comprising the steps of:
2 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and
3 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration
4 period has been exceeded.

1 20. A system for context-aware computer management comprising:

means for assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
means for assigning each smart badge within a set of visible smart badges one of
the clearance levels;
means for identifying smart badges having a lowest clearance level;
means for providing access over the computer to database information having
clearance levels no higher than the lowest clearance level;
means for updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in
smart badge visibility status; and
means for recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in
smart badge visibility status.

21. A system for context-aware computer management comprising:

a database, including information differentiated by a plurality of clearance levels;
a first beacon;
a set of smart badges, in visible communication with the first beacon, each badge
assigned one of the clearance levels;
a system service module, coupled to the beacon, for identifying a lowest clearance
level assigned to the smart badges; and
a software application, coupled to the service module and the database, for
providing access to information within the database having clearance levels no higher
than the lowest clearance level.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the first beacon includes:

a wide angle RF beacon.

1 23. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a second diffuse IR beacon, coupled to the service module, limited to detecting
3 smart badges within a workroom.

1 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the smart badges include:
2 biometric sensors for detecting when a smart badge has been removed from an
3 assigned smart badge wearer.

1 25. The system of claim 21, wherein the service module defines a smart badge
2 visibility status, and recalculates the lowest clearance level in response to a change in the
3 visibility status.

1 26. The system of claim 21, wherein the application logs smart badge wearers
2 assigned to visible smart badges onto a computer.